GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:262
ANSWERED ON:26.04.2016
Hunting of Wild Animals
Kaswan Shri Rahul

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to allow hunting of certain wild animals damaging the crops of farmers; and
(b) if so, details thereof;
(c) whether the Government has received any complaints from farmers regarding loss of crops due to increasing wild animals/ foreign breed of animal population;
(d) if so, the details thereof; and
(e) whether the Government proposes to take any concrete and effective measures for the redressal of this problem and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) & (b) The Ministry has, vide Gazette Notifications, transferred some Wild animals such as Blue Bull, Wild Pig, and Rhesus Macaque monkey to Schedule V of the Wild Life (Protection) Act 1972 in certain areas of Bihar, Uttarakhand, and Himachal Pradesh for a specified time, and in areas outside the forest areas. Such notifications empower the State Government authorities to undertake measures necessary for controlling the population of wild animals straying outside the forest areas and such measures would not be counted as an offense during the validity of these notifications.

(c) & (d) The Ministry has received requests from the State Governments of Bihar, Uttarakhand, and Himachal Pradesh to issue the notifications as mentioned above, based on the complaints received from the farmers and assessments made thereof in view of the negative human-wildlife interactions.

(e) Keeping in view the losses to crops inflicted by the wild animals, this Ministry, on 24th December, 2014 issued an advisory to the States highlighting the legal provisions under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to deal with the human-wildlife conflict situations. Vide this advisory, Ministry has also sought proposals from State/Union Territory Governments, after objective assessment of the situation with details of the areas in which notification under section 62 of the Act, listing wild animals in Schedule V for specified period, could be helpful in management of conflict.

Further, Ministry has also issued a detailed advisory on 1st June, 2015 to the State/Union Territory Governments regarding the priority actions for management of human wildlife conflict. The State/UT Governments have been requested to institute a 'Human Wildlife Management Strategy' along with other suggested measures for the proper management and prevention of negative human wildlife interactions.

The Central Government provides financial assistance to the States/ Union Territory Governments under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of "Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats", "Project Tiger" and 'Project Elephant" for the management of wildlife and its habitats in the country, which inter alia helps in preventing negative human-animal interaction. The activities supported under the Schemes inter alia include construction /erection of physical barriers, such as barbed wire fence, solar powered electric fence, bio-fencing using cactus, boundary walls etc. to prevent the entry of wild animals into crop fields; improvement of wildlife habitat of wild animals by augmenting the availability of food and water in forest areas to reduce the entry of animals from forests to habitations and setting up of anti-depredation squads to drive away problematic animals. As an immediate measure, states can also provide ex-gratia relief to the victims of wildlife attack on life or property.

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